

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JIDDA 03552 111136Z
ACTION INT-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 SSO-00 /024 W
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O 111042Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2011

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3552

DEPT PASS FRANK S. SIMONS USGS RESTON 703-860-6552 FROM DEMATTEO

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: TGEN
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH ABDULRAZAK ABU RASHID

MEETING WITH ABDULRAZAK RE MASRY PROBLEM PRODUCED A CONFIDENTIAL
LETTER FROM THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION TO HRH MINISTER OF THE
INTERIOR ACCUSING YAMANI OF PROVIDING ERRONEOUS INFORMATION
TO HIS HIGHNESS THE DEPUTY CHIEF MINISTER AS TO, "ILLEGAL INVESTIGATIONS"
THAT HAVE BEEN OR ARE BEING CONDUCTED BY USGS GEOLOGISTS AND
OTHERS IN THE FIELD OF ARCHAEOLOGY.

ESSENTIAL POINTS MADE ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1- OVERSTREET CARRIED OUT EXTENSIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS AND
COLLECTED STONE FROM SW AND NW REGIONS AND
PUBLISHED A BOOK "CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PREHISTORY OF SAUDI
ARABIA" (1973)

2- AGGUSTUS SARDINAS APPARENTLY AUTHORED A SIMILAR TYPE WORK
NOT CLEAR NOR DO WE HERE KNOW WHO HE IS.

3- BOTH OF THE ABOVE ACCUSED OF SENDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS
TO USA TO DR. HENRY FIELD THE PUBLISHER WHO IN TURN PRESENTED
THEM TO PEABODY MUSEUM (HARVARD)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JIDDA 03552 111136Z

4- AS FOR THE PRESENT ROGERTS IS NAMED AS CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING
MERELY ARCHEOLOGICAL WORKS CONCENTRATING ALL HIS ACTIVITIES
IN STUDYING THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MINES.

5- THAT HE MADE CONTACTS WITH DR. ROBERT ADAMS, CHICAGO UNIVERSITY
AND DR. PETER PARR, LONDON UNIVERSITY AND PRESENTED TO THEM
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EARTHEN WARE SAMPLES AND THAT HE ASKED THEM TO

PARTICIPATE WITH HIM IN RESEARCH; THAT THEY REFUSED AND HE THEN APPROACHED DR. PRENTIS DE JESUS (PARIS)

6- THAT THE NEWS RELEASE RE THE "PHIR" MINE (24 MAY '76) INDICATES THAT THE USGS HAS UNDERTAKEN HISTORICAL RESEARCH TO PROVE THE MINE IS THE ONE RELATED TO SOLOMON.

7-THAT CONTRARY TO WHAT YAMANI HAS STATED TO FAHD, THERE HAS BEEN DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE USGS AND THE RFFHAEOLOGY DEPT.

BECAUSE OF THE ABOVE UYOS IS ACCUSED OF HAVING CARRIED OUT ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES WITHOUT LICENSE OR PERMISSION IN VIOLATION OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS RESOLUTION WHICH STIPULATED THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

HAVE DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH ROBERTS AND SCHMIDT AND HAVE DETERMINED THE FOLLOWING (REF 1-7 ABOVE):

1-NO KNOWLEDGE OF OVERSTREET WORK EXCEPT SCHMIDT RECALLS 1973 LETTER TO KABBANI REQUESTING ADDRESS OF ANTIQUITIES FOR SENDING STONE TOOLS. SEARCH OF FILES PRODUCED REFERENCE BUT NO COPY.

2- SARDINAS UNKNOWN TO SCHMIDT AND ROBERTS

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JIDDA 03552 111136Z

3-NO KNOWLEDGE HERE

4-UNTRUE

5-ROBERTS OBTAINED ADAMS NAME FROM MASRY WHO STUDIED UNDER ADAMS. ROBERTS REQUESTED ONLY REFERENCES RELATING TO THE MOVEMENT OF METALS DURING THE LAST THREE MILLENNIA IN THE MIDDLE EAST. REFERENCES OBTAINED NOT VERY HELPFUL.

6-YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS ONE

7-DGMR IS UPSET BECAUSE YAMANI IS BEING ACCUSED OF LYING TO FAHD AND BASICALLY COVERING UP.

IT SEEMS MASRY HAS MASTERLY USED THE ABOVE TO STATE HALF TRUTHS AND THROUGH INUENDO BUILD A HORNETS NEST IN WHICH THE USGS IS BEING ACCUSED OF CONDUCTING PRUELY ARCHAEOLOGICAL STUDIES AND YAMANI IS BEING ACCUSED OF COVERING IT UP BY LYING TO FAHD ABOUT IT.

A RESPONSE BY US TO DGMR IS DUE ON MONDAY 15 MAY. SUGGEST YOU DISCUSS WITH KILLSGAARD AND OVERSTREET THOSE POINTS PERTAINING TO ITEMS 1-3 ABOVE, AND PHONE ME OR ROBERTS FRIDAY LATE EVENING TO

DISCUSS OUR RESPONSE.

CONTINUATION OF NUMBER 5 UNDER DISCUSSION ABOVE:

ADAMS REFERRED TO PARR FOR INFORMATION ABOUT EARLY MINING HISTORY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. REFERENCES PROVIDED AGAIN NOT HELPFUL. NO EFFORT TO SET UP COOPERATIVE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION WAS MADE WITH EITHER ADAMS OR PARR.

DE JESUS WROTE ROBERTS (NOT VICE VERSA) AT PROF. DAVIS'S SUGGESTION TO SET UP A PROJECT TO STUDY SLAGS AND FURNACES USED IN ARABIA IN ANCIENT TIMES. ROBERTS REPLIED HIS INTEREST WAS IN THE CHEMISTRY OF SLAGS. DE JESUS LATER WROTE TO MASRY WITH THE PROPOSAL.
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PAGE 04 JIDDA 03552 111136Z

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION EXCHANGE, ARCHEOLOGY, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JIDDA03552
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780200-0137
Format: TEL
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780570/aaaachja.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 212b8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION INT
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2725743
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH ABDULRAZAK ABU RASHID MEETING WITH ABDULRAZAK RE MASRY PROBLEM PRODUCED A CONFIDENTIAL LETTER FROM THE MINSTER OF EDUCATION TO HRH MINI ST
TAGS: TGEN, US, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/212b8ea0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014